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Letter dated 19 August 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation regarding the terrorist act against the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Baghdad that took place on 19 August 2003 (see annex). Allow me to express our condolences to the relatives of those who were killed and our sincerest sympathies to those who were injured during this barbaric act.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gennady **Gatilov**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 19 August 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation concerning the terrorist act in Baghdad

Moscow is shocked by the reports of the explosion that occurred in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Baghdad. Judging by the first reports, it was a terrorist act resulting in numerous human casualties.

We wish to express our deep condolences to the victims' families and loved ones and our sympathy to those injured.

This barbarous act, for which there is no justification, is aimed at undermining the already difficult process of post-war stabilization in Iraq. It is a cause for indignation that the terrorists' target was the staff of the United Nations, whose efforts are directed solely at helping the Iraqi people to deal with the after-effects of the military conflict and lead a normal life.

The tragedy that has occurred confirms with the utmost clarity the need for broader and more united participation by the international community in advancing a settlement in Iraq in accordance with the existing resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations.

19 August 2003